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Dozens of firefighters tackle second blaze at factory in a year



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Police close the road as the blaze tears through the Banbury factory. Picture: Michael Brooker

FIRE DAMAGES COFFEE PLANT

A MAJOR blaze at the former Kraft factory in Banbury was tackled by dozens of Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue firefighters late on Saturday night.

Crews from Banbury and Bicester Fire Stations were joined by fire engines from Warwickshire and Northamptonshire on the scene shortly before midnight.

When firefighters arrived at the coffee factory, now operated by Jacobs Douwe Egberts, they found an external roof platform was on fire.

The building was evacuated and the blaze brought under control, with work on the site slowly getting back into gear over the course of Sunday.

Incident commander station manager Simon Summers said: "Crews quickly got firefighting jets on to the fire.

"Working closely with the site engineers, the fire damage to the building was limited."

No one was hurt in the incident.

Hannah Somerville
hannah.somerville@nqo.com

A spokesman for Jacobs Douwe Egberts said: "JDE would like to thank the local fire service for their fast actions and for how they worked closely with our incident team to minimise the fire and disruption to the site. We are now working closely with them to understand the cause."

Mark Cherry, who represents the nearby Banbury Ruscote ward on Oxfordshire County Council, said he had been called by the fire service the next day.

He said: "I extend my praise to Oxfordshire firefighters whose valiant efforts in tackling the factory fire on Saturday night saved lives while risking their own."

"Quite a few people in my ward work at that factory; it's still a big employer and it would be a loss if it ever closed."

It is the second time in nine months

that the factory in Ruscote Avenue has gone up in flames following a blaze in one of the coffee dryers in the complex.

Mr Cherry added: "The fire service will need to liaise with Douwe Egberts to see if any safety measures can be introduced."

"It's concerning. In my view there needs to be major investment in the factory because some of its dates back from the 1950s and 60s."

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Children’s charity makes a big play to boost funds

Hannah Somerville
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A CHARITY brightening the lives of young people with disabilities in Banbury has launched its first ever donations appeal ahead of a big move.

The Let’s Play Project currently supports about 100 disabled children and teens from its base in Southam Road through play and leisure sessions.

It has recently acquired new premises in Twyford, just outside Adderbury, but is calling on the community to help turn the building into a home.

Staff hope to raise £70,000 to renovate the new premises before moving in in September as well as vital construction components and furniture for the new space.

Charity manager Deborah Kerrison said: “Let’s Play is at the heart of the community. We have been supporting families in the area who have a disabled child since 2001.

“However, we want and need to do more. We know that there are more children who could benefit from our services so we are moving to new, bigger premises.”

Let’s Play aims to give youngsters with disabilities the chance to make new friends, develop social skills and try the same activities as their



Staff and young people at Let’s Play Banbury at a recent ‘carnival day’ ahead of the big move in September

non-disabled peers. It also offers respite for their families and carers. As part of the move, the service could be extended to families of younger pre-school children and those aged over 18.

Ms Kerrison added: “Creating a safe, inspiring, fun and nurturing environment that can be enjoyed by all is crucial.

“But we need help to do this and we are really hoping the local community will support the appeal and help us realise our dreams.”

An online crowdfunding page has been set up as part of charity’s ‘Big Build’ appeal. People able to volunteer their time and skills to help out with painting, sanding and constructing parts of the new building

are also being sought. Let’s Play is also in need of items such as a cooker, carpet tiles, storage containers, kitchen flooring, fencing, desks, filing cabinets, an outdoor shed and paint.

Anyone able to help out is invited to visit justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/letsplay/letsplaybigbuild or email deb@letsplaybanbury.org

Police officers ask for food vouchers

THE chairman of Thames Valley Police Federation said he was pleased that the Home Secretary recognised the ‘unnecessary and lengthy delays in investigation on police officers’.

Speaking at the end of the Police Federation of England and Wales annual conference, Craig O’Leary said he was delighted Amber Rudd accepted ‘the Independent Police Complaints Commission needed to be quicker in their investigations into our officers’.

But, the federation chairman for the region, the body which represents rank and file officers, said he was less than impressed that the Home Secretary gave no undertaking in her speech to improve police officer pay.

He added some officers had been coming to federations around the country asking for food vouchers.

Mr O’Leary said: “This is a crazy situation, we’re asking people to go and do an extraordinary job on a daily basis and yet they can’t afford to put food on the table.”

The federation said officers would be subject to a ‘real term cut’ in their salary for the next three or four years.

Camping pitches

APPROVAL has been given to create new camping pitches near Adderbury, north Oxfordshire.

The agricultural land will be turned into space for 30 camping and caravan pitches after Cherwell District Council gave the go ahead.

The space will operate for eight months of the year; from March 1 to October 31.



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Jigsaw gran unites people with 'passion for puzzles'



Hannah Somerville
hannah.somerville@nqo.com

A GRANDMOTHER with a passion for puzzles is inviting others to grab a piece of the action after being appointed 'Minister for Jigsaws'.

Sue Riches, a retired teacher in her 60s, has had the outlandish title bestowed upon her by manufacturer Wentworth Wooden Puzzles.

The Easington resident is already a vocal ambassador for the traditional pastime and set up a new jigsaw club in Banbury, Piece Together, last year.

A nationwide search for the new minister, an annual award designed to help promote jigsaw puzzles, was launched by Wentworth on November 3 - National Jigsaw Day - last year.

Applicants were asked to send an

email or letter explaining why they were right for the role, meeting essential requirements including the ability to complete a puzzle alone.

Ms Riches said: "I have always believed that the benefits of jigsaws are huge, not only for the individual, but for the community.

"Completing jigsaws helps to relieve stress, practice mindfulness and improve concentration, as well as bringing different generations together.

"I am very excited to take on the new role. Some of my friends already call me Mrs Jigsaw. I will have to change that to minister."

So far Piece Together has gathered 70 members, with about 40 at sessions held from 2pm on fourth Tuesdays of the month in St Hugh's Hall, Ruskin Road.

About 500 puzzles have been donated to the club, which is set to expand to

other groups in the community including care homes and Katharine House Hospice.

Ms Riches said: "Banbury Town Council generously gave us a grant to buy 'porta-puzzles' and boards that can be used in communal areas.

"We have acquired the copyright on a brilliant picture of Banbury Canal Day and are hoping to have a short run of puzzles made."

A sponsor is currently being sought by the club to help turn the dream of a Canal Day jigsaw into reality.

Sarah Watson, marketing director at Wentworth, said: "We are seeing a huge rise in the popularity of jigsaws as adults search for an alternative to digital activities.

"The role of the Minister for Jigsaws is key to the continued development of our jigsaw puzzles."

Sue Riches, the Minister for Jigsaws, puzzling at home with her grandchildren

Two men held after stabbing incident

TWO young men have been arrested on suspicion of grievous bodily harm after violence erupted in Banbury on Monday night.

The incident in Prescott Avenue took place between 6pm and 6.20pm and involved 'a number of men', according to Thames Valley Police.

During the altercation one man received stab wounds and was taken to the Horton General Hospital. He has since been discharged.

Another man was treated by paramedics for head injuries.

Following the incident an 18-year-old man from Banbury and a 19-year-old man from Brackley were arrested. Both were still in police custody yesterday.

Investigating officer Detective Constable Graeme Johnson of Force CID, based at Banbury police station, said: "We are appealing for anyone with information regarding this incident to come forward."

South Central Ambulance spokeswoman Michelle Archer said: "We were called at 6.10pm to Prescott Avenue and sent a rapid response vehicle and the Thames Valley Air Ambulance to the scene.

"Paramedics assessed two patients, both with non-life-threatening injuries, and they were taken to the Horton General Hospital."

Unconfirmed reports from members of the public on Facebook suggested one of the men involved had been seen in nearby Princess Diana Park with a baseball bat.

Those with information should call 101.

Heritage area protection pledge

HERITAGE areas in Banbury will be protected as the Castle Quay extension project gets under way, planning bosses have said.

On May 18 Cherwell District Council's planning committee granted permission for reserved matters across the CQ2 development. The £32m project - which includes a cinema, a supermarket, a hotel, six restaurants, parking and cycle facilities and bridges - could begin later in 2017.

Councillor Colin Clarke, Cherwell's lead member for planning, said the project was a 'fantastic opportunity' to reinvigorate

the town centre. He added: "For many years the people of Banbury have been calling for a supermarket and multi-screen cinema in the town centre, and we are pleased to support proposals which bring these facilities to the heart of the community.

"The restaurants and hotel brought by the development will also enhance the town's night life and economy."

He added: "We are mindful of the fact that the site falls within a heavily used conservation area, so it is pleasing to see that this proposal will enhance the

connectivity of the town centre while showing sensitivity to heritage features such as Tooleys Boatyard."

The permission relates to land on either side of the Oxford Canal, including the site of the former Spiceball Leisure Centre and land north of the canal opposite Castle Quay. In addition to the development's key features, the decision provides for landscaping, alterations to the rear of the Castle Quay Shopping Centre, the demolition of the northern Castle Quay car park, and new motor access off Cherwell Drive.

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Meet the candidates who are set for a six-way fight



Candidates unveil the issues they will fight the election on as the vote countdown begins

Matt Oliver
moliver@nqo.com

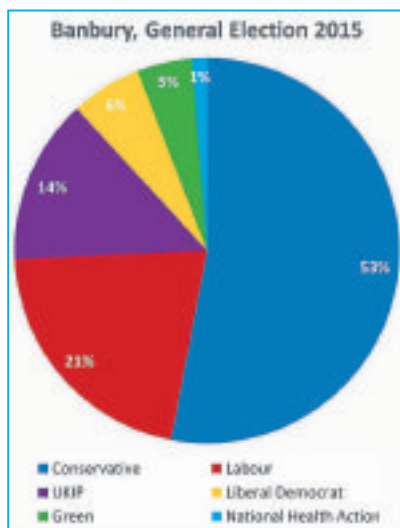
THE Banbury constituency has roots dating back to 1554 and was a Liberal seat from the mid-19th century until 1922 when it was won by the Conservatives.

The party has held the seat ever since and Sir Tony Baldry represented it from 1983 to 2015.

Sir Tony stood down from Parliament when it was dissolved two years ago and Victoria Prentis, his successor Conservative candidate, was elected to replace him.

She managed to build on Sir Tony's 2010 majority of 18,227, increasing it to 18,395 in May 2015.

This year she is running again. Rival candidates include Oxfordshire county councillor and education expert John



Howson, who is running for the Liberal Democrats again, and Labour's Sean Woodcock.

UKIP, the Green Party and independent Roseanne Edwards, who is campaigning on NHS issues, are also ready to contest the seat on June 8.

Dickie Bird, UKIP



ALTHOUGH the deliverance of Brexit is unsurprisingly very important to me, and I firmly believe a vote for UKIP on June 8 will help Brexit happen, it will ensure the Government's feet are kept to the fire.

Giving the Conservatives too much of a majority will allow a softening of the whole Brexit approach. UKIP offer a fully costed manifesto:

- Invest an extra £11bn per year into the NHS by the end of the next parliament.
- Raise income tax threshold to £13,500, cut taxes for middle earners, abolish the TV Licence fee, and cut VAT on household fuel bills.
- Maintain all pensioner benefits and the triple lock.
- Protect disability and carers' benefits.
- Spend a genuine two per cent of GDP on defence plus £1bn every year.

ROSEANNE EDWARDS, IND



BANBURY'S Horton Hospital will be gone as an inpatient unit by next summer, as the Government insists England's acute care is centralised in city hospitals.

The JR will be impossibly overcrowded for all Oxfordshire patients. MPs 'support' the Horton but refuse to oppose the policy downgrading the NHS – sustainability and transformation.

That is why I am standing as an independent, Vote For The Horton candidate. Real terms NHS funding has plummeted while privatisation has soared. Privatisation is at the heart of Conservative policy. The GP system is in disarray through doctor shortages. Lives are now in danger. Labour offers to 'halt' STPs but only for review. Labour does not support the NHS Reinstatement Bill which would restore a publicly-funded and run NHS.

JOHN HOWSON, LIB DEM



ON June 8, I ask you to think very hard about what is best for you, your family, and everyone in the Banbury constituency. Another Tory MP?

Another member of Labour's failed opposition? Or a strong and passionate voice sticking up for your area, challenging Theresa May's government and holding it to account as part of a real opposition?

This election is about two issues: public services (the NHS and our schools) and our place in the world. The Tories threaten the future of the Horton General Hospital and announced plans to cut funds to 19 primary schools across the constituency, meaning their possible closure. They axed the mobile library service, closed children's centres. Negotiations on Brexit need a strong opposition to secure the best outcome for Britain.

IAN MIDDLETON, GREEN PARTY



I'M an ethical entrepreneur and a political writer.

I've lived in Oxfordshire for 24 years and joined the Green Party in 2012. I was also the Parliamentary Candidate for Banbury in 2015

My top priority is to defend our NHS and social care.

The removal of crucial services at the Horton General is a direct result of Conservative policies to de-fund and privatise our health service and must be stopped at all costs. I'm equally concerned about the privatisation of our schools and the way funding has been cut to the point where teachers have to plead for financial help from parents.

The lack of affordable housing for people on average incomes is destroying communities. Finally I want to see a vote on the terms of our exit from the EU after negotiations are complete. Most people didn't vote for a hard Brexit.

VICTORIA PRENTIS, CON



FOR the past two years, it has been an enormous privilege to have represented the area in which I have always lived. I want to continue to be your passionate local voice in Parliament. Nowhere is this more true than when it comes to protecting the Horton General Hospital where I was born. Centralising care at the John Radcliffe is not in the best interests of all of us in north Oxfordshire.

Acute services must remain local. I am determined to secure the Horton's future. We must also deal with the pressures facing primary care by ensuring our GPs receive the investment and support they deserve. North Oxfordshire is one of Britain's fastest growing and most diverse business centres. There is almost no unemployment. We are well placed to make the most of the opportunities that will come from Brexit.

SEAN WOODCOCK, LABOUR



SEAN Woodcock is delighted to be the Labour Party candidate for the constituency he has lived in his entire life.

An experienced local politician, Sean has served on district and town councils. He has been leader of the Labour group on the Cherwell District Council since 2013. He has also been a governor at a local school. He has led Labour's cross-party efforts to retain services at the Horton General Hospital and is an active campaigner on issues affecting the constituency.

Priorities for Banbury:
p Mismanagement and cuts to social care and public health has put immense pressure on local services; especially the Horton Hospital. I will make the delivery of joined-up local health my priority.
p I will oppose a Tory 'Hard Brexit' that puts jobs and local firms that trade with Europe at risk.

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City 'has enough' armed police

Thames Valley force is urging public to stay 'alert but not alarmed'

Michael Race
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THE POLICE commissioner for the Thames Valley has said he is satisfied the force has enough armed officers on the streets of Oxford following the Manchester terror attack.

Anthony Stansfeld said it was unfortunate that so many armed officers needed to be recruited in recent years, but added it was 'clearly necessary' for them to be deployed across the country.

In an exclusive interview with the Oxford Mail yesterday, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) urged 'everybody to be vigilant' and to report any suspicious behaviour to the police.

When asked whether he thought cities such as Oxford could be at risk of an attack, he said: "It could happen in any major city.

"Oxford is no more at threat than any other."

Armed police continued to patrol the streets of the city yesterday as the authorities stepped up their response after Monday's attack at the Manchester Arena.

The bomb, which was detonated by British-born Salman Abedi, killed 22 people and hurt 116.

Abedi was born in Manchester on



Anthony Stansfeld, Thames Valley area police and crime commissioner

New Year's Eve 1994 to Libyan parents who had fled that country after becoming opponents of Colonel Gaddafi's regime.

Mr Stansfeld said: "It's a tragedy that some people who have sought and been given political asylum in this country seek to destroy our way of life, in a country that has been so generous and kind to them."

Officers carrying rifles were seen at Oxford Rail Station, in the city centre and near the Ashmolean museum.

Mr Stansfeld said there had been a 'considerable uplift' in the numbers of armed officers and training of armed officers over the past two years to 'meet the threat'.

He added: "We have got enough armed officers. I regret it's



Another day sees armed police patrolling the Oxford City Centre after the attack in Manchester

necessary to have so many armed, but it clearly is necessary."

It is understood the Thames Valley Police and Hampshire Constabulary Joint Operations Unit has about 270 'authorised firearms officers'.

The commissioner said he strongly supported PREVENT, a Government counter-terrorism programme which aims to stop people being radicalised, but said

it may have to be 'bolstered'. He added: "There may be strands that people may not like sometime, but the broad thrust of it is correct."

Thames Valley Police said there was no intelligence pointing to specific threats, but asked the public to stay 'alert but not alarmed'.

Deputy Chief Constable John Campbell said the force was taking 'all possible steps to keep people safe'.

Yesterday, the country fell silent to honour the victims.

Tomorrow afternoon, a 'circle of togetherness' will be created in Wantage.

Charity champion Ray Collins is helping organise the solidarity event in the town's market place at 2.22pm for two minutes and 22 seconds, in memory of the 22 killed in the blast.

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HRH The Countess of Wessex shares a joke with learners whilst visiting an LVS Oxford classroom last year.

School has good rating by Ofsted

Second year in a row that house of learning has earned praise

A SCHOOL for young people with autism has scooped a second good rating from Ofsted in the space of a year.

LVS Oxford was roundly praised for having an 'excellent understanding' of individual pupils and treating all young people 'with dignity and respect' in a social care inspection report.

The school in Begbroke, near Kidlington, was rated good – Ofsted's second highest rating – overall but also picked up an outstanding rating in the 'quality of care and support' category.

Headteacher Louisa Allison-Bergin said: "The residential Ofsted inspection is our second since the school opened in September 2014.

"It demonstrates that we have built on our previous Good status as the quality of care and support was judged by Ofsted to be outstanding.

"The report highlights the fact that staff have an excellent understanding of each young person's needs and that we prepare them for their life after school through a targeted programme of life and social skills."

The school caters for young people aged from 11 to 19 on the autism spectrum.

Pupils can attend as day pupils or boarders and it now offers flexi-boarding for families who require respite, allowing pupils to stay for one, two or three nights a week.

Ms Allison-Bergin said: "This excellent report is a huge testament to the fantastic residen-



Eleven students with autism from LVS Oxford enjoyed a trip in September last year when they took a light aircraft flight from Oxford Airport thanks to aviation charity Fly2Help.

Luke Sproule
lsproule@nqo.com

tial team we have in place, their skills in helping the young people in their care to grow and progress, and the seamless interaction with the academic team."

The school was inspected in April by a team from Ofsted, which said young people made very good progress as a result of the residential provision.

The report by lead social care inspector Jennie Christopher said: "Young people are supported extremely well by staff to explore who they are.

"Young people have the opportunity to take part in a range of socially and emotionally stimu-

lating activities, with plans being agreed weekly.

"Activities include swimming, photography, arts and crafts, and games."

The report also included comments from parents to inspectors.

One parent said: "Staff do a fantastic job, often in difficult circumstances."

Another said: "He [my son] is learning new skills, which benefit him, like cooking."

Ofsted identified some areas for improvement, including ensuring all furniture was suitable and well-maintained.

The watchdog also recommended considering how effective the current format is for demonstrating staff skills.

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Low student intake results in staff job cut threat at college

Matt Oliver
moliver@nqo.com

FALLING student numbers are forcing a college chain to cut almost 50 staff from its Oxfordshire campuses.

Activate Learning confirmed it was consulting staff on plans to make 69 full time positions redundant, after a disappointing number of 16-year-olds applied to study with it in the 2016/17 academic year.

The low numbers mean it will receive less cash for the 2017/18 year, due to the one year 'lag' applied when college funding is calculated.

The group runs City of Oxford College, and Banbury and Bicester College – which has a campus in each town. The Bicester campus will see its opening times changed.

Activate Learning chief executive Sally Dicketts said yesterday that she did not expect pupil numbers to rise again until 2019.

She added: "This is a national issue but obviously we recognise it is an awful situation for some of those affected."

"We are reducing staff numbers but maintaining provision because we believe there will be an upsurge again in two years time and so we want to be sure we can grow again."

"At the moment applications for



Sally Dicketts, Active Learning chief executive

next year are looking strong, but the applications for this current year were much lower than in 2015/16.

"That is partly because in 2015/16 they were above what we would normally expect."

The biggest fall in applications had been in creative subjects, Ms

Dicketts said, while applications for some areas, such as business studies, had risen.

She added: "We think that is because the Government has been heavily promoting STEM [science, technology, engineering and mathematics] subjects and some schools

have been cutting back on creative, so pupils know less about them."

"We are not closing any creative subjects though because Britain is known for its creative industries and so we hope government will wake up to the need for funding."

The chief executive also said the falling number of students was largely because there were fewer 16-year-olds coming out of the secondary school system.

This is a legacy from the fall in the UK birth rate during the 1990s, which hit a record low in 2001.

Many children born in that period are currently finishing secondary school, but there are fewer of them than in previous generations.

Professor John Howson, an Oxfordshire county councillor and education expert, said it was an issue affecting further education colleges across the country.

He explained: "Like the university sector, they are just now at the tail end of this problem. It has passed through primary schools and is just now ending in secondary schools but there is still very much a decline in numbers. We need to make sure colleges are not decimated during this period because funding is already a big problem. The Government needs to pay attention, particularly if it wants to put a big focus on its proposed T-Levels."

Housing cheat spared jail time

A WOMAN who rented a housing association property while letting out her own home was given a suspended prison sentence.

Ella Street, of Church Street, Barford St Michael, near Banbury, admitted making a false statement and failing to disclose information, namely that she owned a property in Daventry which she rented out to paying tenants.

Street, 31, was then able to obtain the housing association property at Dashwood Terrace, Middle Barton, through West Oxfordshire District Council.

The charges related to a housing application Street made in 2014.

She was given a 16-week custodial sentence suspended for 18 months and a supervision order at Banbury Magistrates' Court on Wednesday, May 24, in the case brought by the district council.

Street was also ordered to pay costs of £500 and a victim surcharge of £115.

She has now been evicted from the housing association property.

Free compost

MORE compost than that of the weight of a double decker bus has been given away to residents in Cherwell.

Hundreds of household from Bicester, Kidlington and Banbury were handed the freebies from Cherwell District Council to promote green living.

More than 17 tonnes of food and garden waste from the district was given away to residents.

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Top county volunteers awarded

Judges overwhelmed by 'the commitment and enthusiasm' of winners

Sophie Grubb
sgrubb@nqo.com

VOLUNTEERS were rewarded for their 'tireless' efforts to improve lives across the county.

Charities and Good Samaritans were celebrated at the Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action (OCVA) Awards, which recognise remarkable people and causes.

More than 300 people dressed up for a swanky awards ceremony at Oxford Town Hall earlier this month, where the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire Jane Cranston handed out the first set of certificates and medals.

East Oxford United under-12s chairman and head coach Hassan Sabrie won the award for 'volunteer of the year', following his fundraising efforts to take some of the team to training camp in Russia.

Judges said Mr Sabrie and his colleagues 'worked tirelessly to develop the club and inspire those facing inequality and disadvantage to participate'.

The club operates a pay-what-you-can policy, so players from poorer families do not miss out.

A further three were hailed winners in other volunteer categories, with several runners-up also given special mention for standing out among the 43 shortlisted entrants.



Thrive Leys Youth Programme was given the working together award



Handy Voices signing choir was given the innovation award



Sandford Talking Shop was named best community project



Bicester Good Neighbour Scheme was given the good neighbour award



One-Eighty was named Oxfordshire charity of the year

Oxfordshire's favourite fearless grandmother Trish Wagstaff, 84, was given the special certificate for commitment to community fundraising.

The Appleton resident has swum with sharks, jumped out of a plane and zoomed along a zipwire to raise cash for charity, and this time was celebrated for her work with a capella group Harmony InSpires.

OCVA runs the awards annually as part of its mission to advise and support a wide network of voluntary organisations in Oxfordshire.

The second part of the event focused on the county's best charities, with 10 awards presented by sponsors alongside the Vice-Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, John Harwood.

Psychology behaviour support charity One-Eighty, based off Botley Road in Oxford, won the coveted title of 'charity of the year'.

Judges were impressed with the service's success in helping vulner-

able children and young people to behave better.

The charity's development and office manager Rebekah Sammut said: "The award is an amazing achievement and recognition for the whole team and the hard work everyone puts in.

"We hope it underlines the importance of addressing mental health and challenging behaviour in young people and families."

One-Eighty uses behavioural support to engage with hundreds of children, many of whom are in care, have mental health difficulties or a close family member in jail.

Oxford loneliness charity The Archway Foundation was awarded the lifetime achievement award.

Another eight charities from across the county were named winners during the ceremony.

Kathy Shaw, OCVA's chief executive, said: "The commitment and enthusiasm of the award winners was overwhelming."



Incredible Edible Hook Norton was awarded best new group



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Appeal for funding or office space for city-based social enterprise TechPixies

Project praised by PM helps mums who have been out of workplace

Gill Oliver

gill.oliver@nqo.com

A PROJECT praised by Prime Minister Theresa May for helping mums back into work is appealing for funding or free office space.

Publicity surrounding Mrs May's visit to Oxford-based TechPixies two weeks ago sent enquiries soaring by 60 per cent.

The social enterprise supports mothers who have been out of the workplace, by teaching them digital skills.

During the past 17 months, it has helped 19 local women.

It is now targeting mums from Rose Hill, Blackbird Leys, Abingdon, Bicester, Wantage, Witney Banbury, Didcot, Henley and Thame, for courses starting this month and in September.

But founder Joy Foster says the TechPixies team needs cash, or the use of free office space one day a week for five weeks, to help another 100 mums.

Mother-of-two Ms Foster, from



TechPixies founder Joy Foster, second from left, with Theresa May and other TechPixies

East Oxford, said: "We can only run more courses and help mums return to work if we receive grant funding or donations via our website. Alternatively, if any of Oxfordshire's business owners have office

space they could provide one day a week from 10am to 2pm for five weeks, we would love to hear from them."

During her meeting with TechPixies on May 15 in an East Oxford of-

fice space provided by accountancy firm Grant Thornton, the Prime Minister said: "TechPixies is a fantastic organisation that is helping women gain new skills to return to work and perhaps even set-up their

own business. This is what we want to see more of in the future."

TechPixies recently raised £7,000 through online fundraising site Crowdfunder.

It smashed through its initial target of £5,000 in two weeks.

The course is designed to fit around nursery and school hours and includes a mix of practical and classroom-based learning.

Candidates are paired with local charities and social enterprises to gain work experience.

Newbury-based energy supply specialist FiDUS Power donated £2,500 to the crowdfunding appeal.

Marketing manager and mother-of-two Vanessa Eadington said: "The owner of FiDUS has always been committed to flexible working and helping mums upskill when returning to work."

Ms Foster launched TechPixies in 2015, after securing backing from the Government's Equalities Office via Better Broadband for Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire County Council.

She added: "We are also grateful to the Prime Minister for taking time out of her busy schedule to meet with us."

"We had record-breaking interest in our courses following her visit."

● For more information about TechPixies courses, or to donate, see techpixies.com

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Movies to see this summer

Wonder Woman Gal Gadot, Chris Pine, Connie Nielsen, Robin Wright, David Thewlis
Released: June 1

Diana (Gadot), princess of the Amazons, lives on an all-female, protected island with her mother, Queen Hippolyta (Nielsen) and aunt Antiope (Wright). When a war pilot (Pine) breaks through the barrier, she decides to help him on his mission, and in doing so hopes to find Ares, the war god, who banished her and her kind.
Hype: It's about time Wonder Woman was given her own origin story treatment. Directed by Patty Jenkins, there's a lot of excitement following Gadot's scene-stealing debut in Batman v Superman: Dawn Of Justice and it looks as if the film will be a spectacle, combining the wonder of Greek mythology with the grittiness of World War I.

The Mummy Tom Cruise, Russell Crowe, Sofia Boutella, Annabelle Wallis
Released: June 9

Dr Henry Jekyll (Crowe) is a man struggling to contain his inner demons, and in this telling, The Prodigum, an underground crypt where mystical creatures are stored. All hell breaks loose when an ancient princess (Boutella) is awakened leaving antiquities thief Nick Morton (Cruise) with some explaining to do.

Hype: Promising stellar stars, freaky monsters, the first female Mummy and never-seen-before stunts, let's hope the film lives up to the hype as the movie's intended to kick-start a franchise focusing on the Universal Monsters, including Frankenstein's Monster, The Invisible Man and The Creature From The Black Lagoon.

Transformers: The Last Knight Mark Wahlberg, Anthony Hopkins, Stanley Tucci, Laura Haddock, Gemma Chan
Released: June 22

Following on from 2014's Age Of Extinction, and with Optimus Prime gone, humans and Transform-

ers are at war. The key to saving mankind's future is finding out why the Transformers keep returning to Earth. Cue Hopkins as a man who might just have the answers.

Hype: Director Michael Bay has announced this is his final outing in the franchise, so you imagine he'll want to leave with a big, big bang.
The Book Of Henry Naomi Watts, Dean Norris, Maddie Ziegler, Jacob Tremblay, Jaeden Lieberher
Released: Jun 23

Henry (Lieberher) is a gifted 11-year-old who takes care of his single mum Susan (Watts) and his younger brother Peter (Tremblay). When it turns out his classmate crush and next-door neighbour Christina (Ziegler) is hiding a dark secret, Henry devises a plan which sees the whole family helping out.
Hype: Most of this cast might be young but they're a talented bunch (you'll recognise Tremblay from Room and Ziegler as the dancer in Sia's music videos).

The film's also directed by Colin Trevorrow, who's co-written the script for the Jurassic World sequel, and will be at the helm of Star Wars: Episode IX.

Despicable Me 3 Steve Carell, Trey Parker, Miranda Cosgrove, Steve Coogan, Kristen Wiig
Released: June 30

Plot: Gru's dragged back to his villainous ways when he meets his flamboyant – and hirsute – twin brother Dru (both voiced by Carell) who persuades him to undertake "just one heist" to keep up the old family tradition.

Hype: Seven years after the original was released, Gru and his motley crew of minions are still going strong with spin-offs, theme park rides and animated shorts.

And it's no wonder, with whip-smart writing and slapstick gags. One for the whole family to enjoy.

The House Will Ferrell, Amy Poehler, Jason Mantzoukas, Allison Tolman
Released: June 30

When Scott Johansen (Ferrell) and

his wife Kate (Poehler) discover they've blown their daughter's college fund, they decide to claw the money back by opening up an underground casino in the basement of their house.

Hype: Ferrell isn't venturing into new territory with this comedy, but when he plays gormless so well, he doesn't have to do a lot to raise the laughs (look out for the sunglasses scene in the trailer).

He and Poehler make a great double act as a suburban couple attempting to become more street.

Spider-Man: Homecoming Tom Holland, Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans, Marisa Tomei, Michael Keaton
Released: July 7

Plot: Peter Parker (Holland) is coming to terms with his web-slinging powers, but even with Tony Stark/Iron Man (Downey Jr.) as a mentor, balancing school with saving the world is tough, especially when there's a serious villain (Keaton) to battle.

Hype: The pressure's on to bring something fresh, after all, this is the sixth Spider-Man movie in 15 years, and the second reboot (following Tobey Maguire and Andrew Garfield's turns).

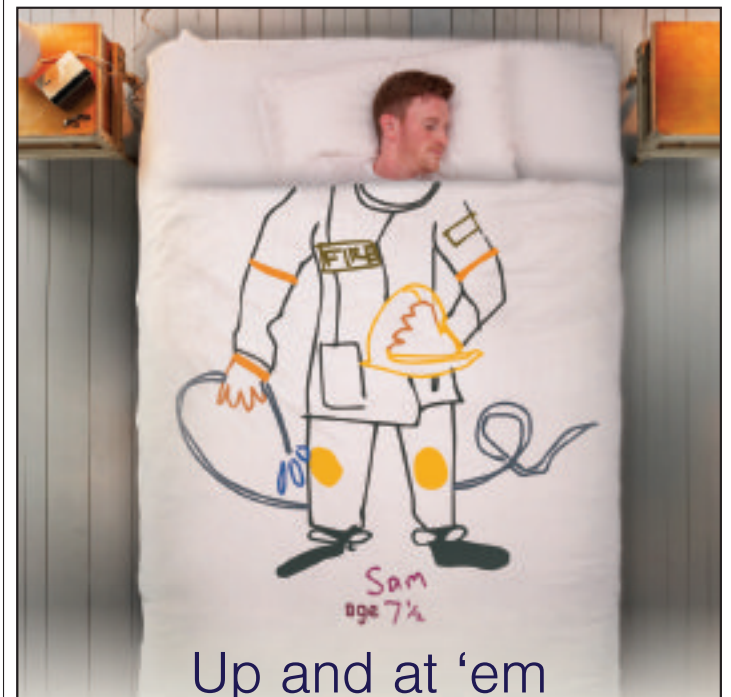
But if Holland and Downey Jr's winning interaction in Captain America: Civil War's anything to go by, fans are in for a treat.

War For The Planet Of The Apes Judy Greer, Woody Harrelson, Andy Serkis
Released: July 14

Following on from the events in Dawn Of The Planet Of The Apes, the primates and humans are at war with each other. When the apes suffer huge losses, Caesar (Serkis) takes it upon himself to avenge their deaths and hones in on the callous Colonel (Harrelson).
Hype: Word is this movie marks the end of Caesar's journey, so fans will want to see how things pan out for the conflicted ape – and for the humans pushed to the verge of extinction.



THE HOUSE: Frank played by Jason Mantzoukas, Kate Johansen played by Amy Poehler and Scott Johansen played by Will Ferrell



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Cake Bookworm

New Boy by Tracy Chevalier is published in hardback by Hogarth, priced £12.99 (ebook £7.99).

Shakespeare's tragic hero Othello morphs into a 1970s black schoolboy in Tracy Chevalier's reworking of one of the Bard's most powerful plays. The betrayed Moor of Venice becomes Osei, a Ghanaian student who joins a new, all-white school in Washington, DC, and has to navigate the petty bigotries of the playground. This is not the first time Shakespeare has been updated into a school-set tale – Heath Ledger's 10 Things I Hate About You, for example, was a Generation Y retelling of The Taming of The Shrew. Chevalier's backdrop of primary/junior school relationships and the loneliness and challenges of the new student trying to forge friendships strikes a chord even without the additional and pivotal racial backdrop. But ultimately it struggles to convince, and some of the child dialogue feels pretty unconvincing.

7/10

Men Without Women by Haruki Murakami is published in hardback by Harvill Secker, priced £16.99.

Over seven progressively off-kilter short stories, Japanese author Haruki Murakami delves into the subject of loneliness and, in particular, how it impacts on seven men. Among them, there's a widower who finds comfort in his formidable new driver's gear changes; a 30-something reflecting on a friendship at university and a love that wasn't to be; a recent divorcee who sets out on a new path in life; and a plastic surgeon who has an unexpected change in outlook in his middle age. Rooted more in the everyday and less in the surreal than his previous works, each story nevertheless has the same familiar unfamiliarity Murakami does so well. Bearing hallmarks of his earlier stories, there are references to the Beatles, suicide, disappearances, melancholic humour in unexpected places, and a sense the world is ever so slightly off balance across the collection. While this is familiar ground, Murakami still has something to say. And considering he is approaching his 70s, he captures youth with particular aplomb.

7/10

All That's Left To Tell by Daniel

Lowe is published in hardback by Picador, priced £14.99 (ebook £8.54).

This may be a first novel by US author Daniel Lowe but he is an experienced writer and it shows in this engrossing tale about a father kidnapped in Pakistan. Marc is restrained in his captivity and prevented from seeing his interrogator, Josephine. At first her inquiries are about who might pay a ransom for him but then she wants to know why he didn't go home for his daughter Claire's funeral after her killing in the US. Our journey winds out from there into a maze of narratives involving characters who may or may not exist. Does it matter any more? We never know or see more than hostage Marc and Josephine as they tell tales of Claire as she was, is, or might have been in a different future, in their different minds. While the premise may seem potentially hard on the emotions and imaginative capabilities, it is not a difficult read. The power of the book lies in Lowe's ability to reveal profound events in a calm and straightforward narrative.

8/10

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Oxfordshire Listings

Events

TODAY

East Hagbourne Scarecrow Trail: Main Road, East Hagbourne. This year's theme is Fairy Tales. 10am. Free, or buy map for £1. 01235 813393.

Family Take Over Days: Banbury Museum, Spiceball Park Road, Banbury. From junk modelling to messy paint and clay craft. Plus pop-up Pathé cinema for the grown ups. 11am-4pm. £4 per child. 01295 753752.

Little Explorers: Earth Trust Centre, Little Wittenham. Sensory buggy/sling walk for babies and toddlers. 10am. £4 per child. 01865 407792.

National Garden Scheme: Old Whitehill Barn, Old Whitehill, Tackley. Evening opening. One-acre country garden on a sloping site around a stone barn conversion. Plant sale. Home-made teas. 6pm. Adult £4, children free.

Oxford Festival of Nature – Danger and Discoveries in northern Mozambique: Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Parks Road, Oxford. Prof Julian Bayliss will present highlights of his scientific expeditions in the high altitude mountains and rainforests of northern Mozambique. The Oxford Festival of Nature is organised by Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust. See www.oxfordfestivalofnature.org 7pm. £4. 01865 775476.

Ramblers walk: Common, Ibstone. Eight-mile walk via Turville and Fingest. Bring a picnic. 10am. 07904 276243.

Walk for Health: Vale & Downland Museum, 19 Church Street, Wantage. Every Thursday morning. 10am. Free. 01235 771447.

Wetland Wildlife Family Day: Rushy Common Nature Reserve and Tar Lakes, Tar Road, Witney. Lower Windrush Valley Project event. Pond dipping, a bird hide to explore and other activities. Picnic's welcome. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Drop in between 11am and 3pm. Free.

FRIDAY

Charity Clay Pigeon Shoot with Archery and Crossbow: Great West Estate, Westfield Lodge, Great Tew. In aid of Lawrence Home Nursing Team. Shooting, archery, crossbow and pool stand followed by lunch and prize giving. Breakfast, two-course buffet lunch, cartridges, guns and instruction. 9am. £115. 01608 684475.

Discover and Play: Earth Trust Centre, Little Wittenham. Forest School for the under-5s. 10am. £4 per child. 01865 407792.

East Hagbourne Scarecrow Trail: Main Road, East Hagbourne. This year's theme is Fairy Tales. 10am. Free, or buy map for £1. 01235 813393.

Family Take Over Days: Banbury Museum, Spiceball Park Road, Banbury. From junk modelling to messy paint and clay craft. Plus pop-up Pathé cinema for the grown ups. 11am-4pm. £4 per child. 01295 753752.

May Half-Term & Pitt Stop: Pitt Rivers Museum, South Parks Road, Oxford. Make your own lucky charm bracelet or a witch in a bottle. Free drop-in session. All children must be accompanied by an adult. 1pm. Free. 01865 270927.

Wantage Country Market: Vale & Downland Museum, 19 Church Street, Wantage. Wantage WI. 9.30am. Free. 01235 771447.

SATURDAY

Banbury Then and Now – A pictorial journey around the town: Banbury Museum, Spiceball Park Road, Banbury. Over the past 50 years, the changing face of Banbury has been recorded through the Images of Banbury project run by a group within the Banbury Camera Club. Join Alan Sargeant to take

a visual 'walk' through a selection of these images past and present. 2.30pm. £5. 01295 753752.

Bloodwise Blenheim Palace Triathlon: Blenheim Palace, Woodstock. See www.livetotri.co.uk 6.05am.

Chadlington Beer Festival: Chadlington Memorial Hall, Chapel Road, Chadlington. Food, drink, live music and children's activities. Noon. £10.

East Hagbourne Scarecrow Trail: Main Road, East Hagbourne. This year's theme is Fairy Tales. 10am. Free, or buy map for £1. 01235 813393.

Flower & Crafts Festival: St Andrew's Church, Church Road, Chinnor. With afternoon cream teas, games, crafts, plants, tombola. For St Andrew's Maintenance Fund. 1-6pm. Donations at the door. 01844 352472.

Full Steam Ahead Family Fun Day 2017: The Sports Field, Rutherford Avenue, Harwell Campus, Harwell. Interactive activities to inspire children and young adults. Climbing wall, 65ft inflatable assault course, soft play area, rocket building, giant bubble making, tower building, giant 'buzz off' challenge, Bright Sparks Science workshops. Proceeds to Helen & Douglas House and Chilton Community Defibrillator Project. Noon. £5 per family then all activities free. 01235 567350.

Jumble Sale: Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre, Besselsleigh Road, Wootton. 2pm. 50p entry.

Open Weekend: Chinnor & Princes Risborough Railway, Station Approach, Station Road, Chinnor. 10am. Free. 07979 055366.

Oxford Festival of Nature – Wild Fair: Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Parks Road, Oxford. See 'living dinosaurs' and quiz the experts under the T-Rex, come face to face with 'wolves' and birds of prey, get your face painted and listen to live music and more. 10am. Free. 01865 775476.

Plant Sale: Sunningwell Village Hall, Main Road, Sunningwell. Sunningwell and District Gardening Club. Plants, homemade cakes and jams for sale. 10am.

Salford Fete and Fun Dog Show: Salford Village Hall and Field, Lower End, Salford, Chipping Norton. Attractions for all ages. Dog agility 1pm, children's races 1.30pm, fun dog show 2pm, tug of war 3.15pm, round-the-village race 3.30pm. Beer and cider festival at the Salford Inn. Noon. Free. 01608 644456.

The Otmoor Challenge: The Otmoor Challenge, Millennium Hall, Straight Mile, Horton cum Studley. Half marathon over roads and tracks round Otmoor. Mass start 2pm. Walk same course or five-mile alternative from 9am. Village fete from noon with food, bar, games and entertainment. Wantage Silver Band. Noon. Run £12 in advance, £15 on the day. 01865 351496.

Vineyard Open Day: Bothy Vineyard, Faringdon Road Frilford Heath, Abingdon. 11am and 2pm free short tour of the vineyard. 11am. Free. 01865 390067.

Wendlebury Village Fayre and Beer Festival: Wendlebury Village Hall, Old Oxford Road, Wendlebury. Noon. Free.

Windrush Bike Project Dr Bike: Clock Tower, Woodgate, Witney. Free bike check. 10am. Free.

Witney and Carterton Fitness Day: Henry Box School, Church Green, Witney. A day of different new classes to try out. All money raised goes to LibFest. 9.30am. £15. 07969 766244.

SUNDAY

Chiltern Chase: Cow Common, High Street, Ewelme. Fundraising for the East Oxfordshire First Responders Charity. A multi terrain 5k 10k and 15k run event for runners and Nordic walkers. There will be awards on the day and refreshments and facilities. 9am. £13 to £19.

To get an event of any kind listed here, enter the details into our easy-to-use online database at thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events

Please add your event no later than ten days before the day of publication.

Churchill Village Festival: Churchill Village Festival, Churchill Green, Churchill. Noon. Free. 01608 658603.

East Hagbourne Scarecrow Trail: Main Road, East Hagbourne. This year's theme is Fairy Tales. 10am. Free, or buy map for £1. 01235 813393.

Family Fun Day and Dog Show: The Playing Field, Littleworth, Faringdon. 1pm. £1, under 12's free; Dog Show £1.50/class. 01367 241328.

Flower & Crafts Festival: St Andrew's Church, Church Road, Chinnor. With afternoon cream teas, games, crafts, plants, tombola. For St Andrew's Maintenance Fund. 1-6pm. Donations at the door. 01844 352472.

Gardens Open: Gardens throughout the village, Holton, near Wheatley. Tickets from the village hall. Plus plant stall, teas and cakes and a grass maze. 2.30pm. £4, under 16 free. 01865 875020.

National Garden Scheme: Failford, 118 Oxford Road, Abingdon. Combined opening with 116 Oxford Road. This town garden won Abingdon in Bloom's best back garden competition. Both formal and informal areas. Limited wheelchair access. Plant sale. Home-made teas. 11am. Combined Adult £3; children free.

National Garden Scheme: 116 Oxford Road, Abingdon. Combined opening with 118 Oxford Road. This garden is opening for the first time this year. It was cleared in 2013 and its creation started in 2014. The garden is wedge shaped, 70ft wide near the house (not open). The challenge was to make it appear that it had evolved over years. It incorporates quirky features, raised beds, lawns and herbaceous borders. Home-made teas. 11am. Combined adult £3; children free.

National Garden Scheme: Various locations, Cumnor. Five gardens of varying styles. Limited wheelchair access. Plant sale. Home-made teas in United Reformed Church Hall, Leys Road. 2pm. Combined adult £4; children free.

National Garden Scheme: Lime Close, 35 Henleys Lane, Drayton. Four-acre mature plantaholic's garden with rare trees, shrubs, perennials and bulbs. New arboretum planted in 2016. Wheelchair access. Dogs on leads. Plant sale. Home-made teas. 2pm. Adult £5; children free.

National Garden Scheme: Wayside, 82 Banbury Road, Kidlington. quarter-acre garden shaded by mature trees. Partial wheelchair access. Plant sale. Home-made teas. 2pm. Adult £5; children free. 01865 460180.

National Garden Scheme: Whitehill Farm, Widford, Burford. Two acres of hillside gardens and woodland with spectacular views. Informal plantsman's garden built up by the owners over 20 years. Dogs on leads. Plant sale. Home-made teas. 2pm. Adult £3.50; children free. 01993 822894.

Sunday Drop-in – Forest School Fun: Earth Trust Centre, Little Wittenham. Explore the woods and get creative. 10am. £4 suggested donation per child. 01865 407792.

Wootton Place Open Garden: Wootton Place, Church Street, Wootton by Woodstock. Herbaceous and woodland borders, orchard and walled garden. 45-minute guided tours by garden staff. Teas at the house. In aid of Wootton Church improvements. 1pm. £5. 01993 813005.

MONDAY

Abstracting the Landscape with Sally Wyatt: Cogges Manor Farm, Church Lane, Witney. Join Cogges Artist-in-Residence, Sally Wyatt, as she takes a small mixed-ability group through the different stages of making abstract pieces of art inspired from the landscape. 10am. £75/£120. 01993 703056.

TUESDAY

Abingdon Flower Club: Northcourt Centre, Northcourt Road, Abingdon. Floral demonstration by Annette Parshotam entitled Tropical Extravaganza. 7.15pm. £7.50 for visitors. Memberships available. 01865 378758.

Tea Dance: Woodstock Social Club, 44 Oxford Street, Woodstock. 2pm. £2. 01993 811473.

Volunteer Open Days at SOFO: Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock. Drop in for a chance to talk to museum staff and volunteers about their roles, and hear about the benefits of volunteering at SOFO. 10-11am. Free entry for open day attendees. 01993 810210.

WEDNESDAY

OXFSN – Housing and Support: Didcot Civic Centre, Britwell Road, Didcot. This event is aimed at family carers who support a family member with a learning disability and/or autism. It will include speakers on the Care Act, direct payments, housing and support as well as Question Time with key decision makers from health and social services. Plus information stands. Bring a packed lunch. 10am. Free. 07786 731634.

Spring Bring & Buy Coffee Morning: Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor Bowls Club, Oxford Road, Kingston Bagpuize. 11am. Free. 01235 868276.

Volunteer Open Days at SOFO: Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock. Drop in for a chance to talk to museum staff and volunteers about their roles, and hear about the benefits of volunteering at SOFO. 5-6pm. Free entry for open day attendees. 01993 810210.

Music

THURSDAY

Swalcliffe Church, Main Road, Swalcliffe, Banbury: The Savage Prunes. Trio playing new compositions on traditional instruments. See <http://www.swalcliffe.org> £11. 7.30pm.

Sheldonian Theatre, Broad Street, Oxford: Sam Lee & Friends, Duotone. Mercury Prize nominated folk singer-songwriter. 8pm. £12-£25.

FRIDAY

Angel, Market Square, Witney: Nikki Petherick. Free. 9pm. 01993 703238.

The Beacon, Portway, Wantage: Ian Siegal. Blues. £12. 8pm. 01235 763456.

Wine Vaults, Parsons Street, Banbury: Joe Holic. Free. 9.30pm. 01295 261281.

SATURDAY

St Mary's Church, Horse Fair, Banbury: Jaguar Land Rover Band in Concert. £10, Concs £8. 7.30pm.

Tiddy Hall, Shipton Road, Ascott-Under-Wychwood: Sean Lakeman & Kathryn Roberts. Wychwood Folk Club. £12 in advance, £14 on the door. 8pm. 01993 831427.

New Theatre, 2 George Street Oxford: Madeleine Peyroux. French-American jazz and blues singer-songwriter. 7.30pm. £33.65-£42.65.

SUNDAY

St Nicolas Church, Market Place, Abingdon: Songs & Dances for Oboe & Piano. Julia White oboe with Eva Doroszkowska piano. £10/£9. 3pm. 07775 904626.

Wine Café, South Parade, Summertown: Sarah Barnwell Trio. Violin, guitar and bass. 6.30-9pm. Free. 01865 236959.

MONDAY

Rose Revived, Newbridge, Witney: Alvin Roy's Reeds Unlimited. Jazz. 7.30pm. Free.

TUESDAY

New Theatre, 2 George Street Oxford: Kraftwerk. German electro pioneers. 7pm. £50.15-£80.15.

WEDNESDAY

White Hart Pub, 126 Godstow Road, Wolvercote: Trish Elphinstone Quintet with Alvin Roy and Mike Wills. £3 voluntary donations. 8.45pm. 01865 511978.

Theatre

Burton Taylor Studio, Beaumont Street, Oxford: Until Jun 3, *The Oxford Italian Play: Mistero!* 7.30pm. £6. Jun 6-10, *Girls Will Be Girls* 01865 305305.

The Bullington, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Jun 3, Sol Berntine, Luke Toulson, Mark Olver. Glee comedy. 7.45pm. £15.95. 01865 810000.

The Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford: Jun 2. *Bound*. Inspired by true accounts of human trafficking, of dreams, broken promises, resilience and above all hope, Bound tells of three people's journeys into the unknown. Followed by a post show discussion. 7.30pm. £12//£10. 01865 263990.

Frideswide Square, Oxford: Jun 5-Aug 5, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Creation Theatre Company. Meet in groups of 10 at a secret location and follow the clues. £25, £18, concessions £22. 7.30pm. 01865 766266.

Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont Street, Oxford: Jun 1-2, *Room on the Broom*. For ages 3+. Various times. £13. Jun 1, John Shuttleworth. 8pm. £25. Jun 3, An Evening With Pam Ayres. £18. 7.30pm. 01865 305305.

New Theatre, George Street, Oxford: Jun 10, *Count Arthur Strong – The Sound of Mucus*. 8pm. £25.15 plus £2.85 transaction fee. 0844 871 7615.

The North Wall Arts Centre, South Parade, Summertown: Jun 1-3, *Garden*. Poltergeist Theatre's comedy about love, science, and living in a bubble. 7.30pm. £10 (concessions £8). Jun 6-8, *While We're Here*. 8pm. £14 (concs £12, members £10). 01865 319450.

Chipping Norton Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton: Jun 4, *Call Me Merman*. 7.45pm. £16.50. Jun 7, *Under Milk Wood*. 7.45pm. £14. Jun 8, *Burton*. One-man show. 7.45pm. £14. 01608 642350.

The Cooper School, Churchill Road, Bicester: Jun 1-3, *HMS Pinafore*. 7.30pm. £13 adults, £7 children. 0333 666 3366.

Cornerstone Arts Centre, Station Road, Didcot: Jun 2-3, *Unforgethtable*. Hip hop theatre show. 7.30pm. £10. Jun 4, *Marty McDonald's Toy Machine*. For ages two and up. 2pm. £10.50. 01235 515144.

The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park Road, Banbury: Jun 3, *HMS Pinafore*. Opera Anywhere. 7.30pm. £20. Jun 8, *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. 7.30pm. £15. 01295 279002.

CakeSport

banburycake.co.uk/sport

Banbury five star for Oxon

Bulls players help county win at Twickenham

FIVE Banbury players helped Oxfordshire make history when they beat Sussex in a gripping Twickenham final. Ed Bowden's last-minute breakaway try for the south-east outfit saw the Bill Beaumont County Championship Division 3 clash finish 29-29.

But Oxon, whose side included Bulls' Ed Phillips, Sam Stoop, Matt Goode, Cash Chilvers and Giles Saar, were celebrating at the final whistle through having scored more tries.

Carles Casanova's penalty put Sussex in front, but

tries from Jack Robinson and Stoop saw the county lead 12-3 at half-time.

Scores from Max Morris and Will Gearing-Grief saw Oxon fall 15-12 behind. But they hit back to lead 29-15, thanks to tries from George Lane, David Hyde and Mike Martin.

Hyde was sin-binned on 70 minutes, before Sussex's Ryan Morlen crossed and Bowden dived over in the last play to level the match.

But Oxon were handed victory on number of tries.

Banbury's Sam Stoop celebrates his try

Picture: David Fleming

Sabin's men beaten by inspired Tew

CRICKET

partnership between Olly Wright, who hit 52 off 54 balls, and Jack Wilkins (32) gave Banbury something to defend.

Joe Thomas (3-28) was the pick of the Tew bowlers, although all played their part. In reply, Tew looked in little danger.

But Henry Woodward laid the platform for victory with an unbeaten 63 as they won by six wickets in the 41st over.

BANBURY

C Haupt c Smith b Adams	7
T Bartlett c&b Shurmer	2
L Sabin lbw Adams	5

C Hill c Garrett b Bryan 18
R West lbw Thomas 17
W Havtin b Thomas 18
J Megson c Shurmer b Thomas 7
J Wilkins not out 32
A Cheema c Adams b Bryan 0
O Wright not out 52
Extras 13
Total (8 wks, 50 ovs) 171
Fall: 1-4, 2-15, 3-16, 4-55, 5-55, 6-75, 7-85, 8-97.
Bowling: Adams 10-1-27-2, Shurmer 10-0-21-1, Thomas 10-2-28-3, Harris 8-1-34-0, Bryan 10-1-29-2, Brock 2-0-25-0.

GREAT & LITTLE TEW

H Smith c Havtin b Taylor	19
J Garrett b Taylor	6
H Woodward not out	63
C Slater b Sabin	31
J Adams c Hill b Wright	24
R Shurmer not out	12
Extras	22
Total (4 wks, 40 ovs)	177
Fall: 1-32, 2-37, 3-95, 4-151.	
Bowling: Cheema 8-4-0-41-0, Taylor 8-0-35-2, Wright 7-0-32-1, West 6-0-31-0, Wilkins 2-0-16-0, Sabin 9-0-21-1.	

Banbury 4pts,
Great & Little Tew 20

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Great & Little Tew 20

Haas boosted by Monaco double

ROMAIN Grosjean believes Banbury's Haas team are moving in the right direction after a first double points finish in Formula 1.

The Frenchman finished eighth, two places ahead of teammate Kevin Magnussen in Monaco.

Grosjean said: "It's the

MOTORSPORT

first time we've had two cars in the top ten, so that's really good, especially in Monaco.

"We managed to stay out of trouble.

"There's a lot more we

need to analyse and understand, but we're growing as a team."

Magnussen said: "Personally, I had a very disappointing race.

"I had a puncture, but to still finish in the points with both cars is a really good job from the team."

STARS with Claire Petulengro

Service provided by IMS Leeds LS1 8LB. Calls cost 60p per minute at all times

ARIES Mar 21-Apr 19

There is no happiness without dreams. Take in the world around you this week Aries. You can afford to dream big, so look to the future and make life as beautiful as it can be. News on an ex makes you glad you moved on. Use Wednesday and Thursday to push for what you want in business, when those with the power won't be able to say no to you. Ring now to make your future great.

0906 585 4360

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

The past and present try to mix together and do so very well if you stop bringing up things you never did and never will see eye to eye on. Eyes forward Libra. Looking at paperwork and going over emails helps you to see a better way you can do something which has not sat well with you for days now. Ring now to hear why I know you hold the power to make reconciliations happen.

0906 585 4366

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Being miserable involves certainty. Being happy involves risk. Come on Taurus, make the future an exciting one and dare to dream. I see from your stars that you have several opportunities to make your weekends ones to look forward to. Take the bull by the horns as you sign was supposed to and take chances this week. Ring so I can tell you what excitement awaits you in your house of family.

0906 585 4361

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Being positive is known to boost the immune system. I know you went through things you now regret, but without having had those regrets you would not be able to enjoy the future as you have and will continue to do. Your ruling planet Mars gives you the edge in business. Arrange to see those you have been scared of. You hold not one, but all the aces. Ring now for the whole story.

0906 585 4367

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

It's been hard for you recently with the amount of decisions you've had to make. You did the best you could and you need to know that Gemini. Your element of air should see you blowing off steam to help deal with this, but new faces have made you more cautious of being yourself. Change this. Be you! Ring now to hear why it's worth giving more time to the older generation this month.

0906 585 4362

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

Why are you taking advice from those whose lives you wouldn't want for your own anyway? Try to acknowledge yourself as an individual and embrace your most dramatic characteristics. They are what will create the life you should lead. Letters, emails and correspondence promise to make your financial situation more manageable. Ring now so we can talk about texts you shouldn't send.

0906 585 4368

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

This week, believe nothing of what you hear and only half of what you see. Many of the signs are talking for the sake of it. To be content, we need to experience a sense of meaning and a sense of achievement. You can have this if you would admit what and who really makes you happy. Doing so ASAP makes for a life changing week for you. Ring now to make life beautiful again.

0906 585 4363

CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

Creativity is strong in your chart and, if you were thinking about taking on some new skills or adding a new job to your CV, then do it. You are a sign who can take pressure. In fact you thrive under it. Someone who wasn't free soon will be and it will be up to you to decide if you want to take them on at a stage where they are still finishing off with the past. Ring now to reveal more.

0906 585 4369

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Don't judge a book by its cover, but keep an open mind. I see from your stars that you have been busy running around for other people rather than concentrating on what needs to be done for you. If you think you're making an effort then others will too. Try to resist the urge to contact someone from your past. You're better than that. Ring now so I can get to the root of what's bothering you.

0906 585 4364

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Don't feel the fool. You did what you thought was best. Try to put the last three weeks down to experience. In fact, by focusing on the positive you will even be able to find humour in all that's occurred. What doesn't kill us makes us stronger and you will see in the year ahead that you are a far wiser and more colourful character for what life has taught you. Ring now for an astounding love prediction.

0906 585 4370

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Happiness is a natural outcome of being able to be yourself. Many of your sign have been living where they're not happy. Changes may be big or they may be small but they're needed either way. Don't be afraid to invest money into your home or into making a new home. It's what will put the sparkle back in your eyes. Ring now so we can talk about recent instant attractions.

0906 585 4365

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 20

What has been making you unhappy is the exaggerated idea you have of the happiness of others. Try to focus on your dreams and stop trying to keep up with the Joneses. Try not to give in to the competitive feel the stars are placing over your career. Taking things at your own place will ensure you build the base you need. Ring now to hear why game playing is not an option in love.

0906 585 4371

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Buying a home is now following the eBay path, with people able to bid for their favourite properties online with Breckon & Breckon's website

'House that' for a bargain on Breckon's auction site?

Gill Oliver
goliver@nqo.com

A NEW online auction service should make buying and selling property easier and faster, according to agents.

Breckon & Breckon, which has six branches in Oxfordshire, has partnered with auctioneer IAM Sold to offer house hunters and vendors a 24-hour, seven-day online auction.

Househunters bid online for a property in an e-Bay-style auction, where anyone can see how much others are pledging.

Exchange of contracts can take place up to 28 days later, versus traditional auctions, where it happens as soon as the buyer has won the bid.

It is hoped the new service will open up the auction market, which is dominated by professional investors and cash-rich bidders, to residential buyers.

For those selling their home there is zero commission, with properties listed on a 'no-sale, no-fee' basis.

Sellers are charged a fee for the preparation of an Energy Performance Certificate and auction pack.

Buyers pay a non-refundable reservation fee or deposit, which makes sure they are fully committed.

Properties sold through online auction are advertised on IAMSold's and Breckon &

Breckon's websites, rightmove.co.uk and with a board outside the property.

Properties in the online auction include a detached bungalow in Noke, *top right*.

The three-bedroom property, which has scope to be extended, subject to planning permission, includes a lounge with French doors, a kitchen/breakfast room, driveway garage and garden backing onto open fields.

Starting price is £460,000. Call

Breckon & Breckon on 01865 750200.

Another property being auctioned online is 8 Rectory Lane in Woodstock, *main picture*, a three-bedroom townhouse with an open-plan kitchen, dining and living room and landscaped garden.

Starting price is £450,000. Contact Breckon & Breckon's Woodstock office on 01993 811881.

● For more information about the online auction service, email auction@breckon.co.uk or visit breckon.co.uk

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Kingfisher Drive

A 3 bedroom detached property comprising: Entrance hall, lounge through to dining room, conservatory, kitchen, cloak room, 3 bedrooms and family bathroom. Outside benefits from off road parking, garage, front, rear and side gardens. Situated near local amenities and primary school.

£285,000



Warkworth Close

A four bedroom detached property with double garage situated to local schools; shops and amenities. The property comprises entrance hall; cloakroom, lounge, dining room, study, kitchen / breakfast, four bedrooms with ensuite to master, family bathroom, front and rear gardens.

£420,000



Northumberland Court

We are delighted to offer to the market this well presented second floor, two bedroom apartment situated in a fantastic location within Banbury. Benefitting from two bedrooms, Lounge/ diner, kitchen and family bathroom this property would make an ideal investment or first home.

£140,000 OIEO



Peoples Place

A large two bedroom apartment with allocated parking. Entrance hall open plan kitchen and living room. The property benefits from integrated appliances. There are two double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes. Good size bathroom with bath and shower and WC. Situated within walking distance to the town centre and train station.

£182,500



Bedford Close

Martin & Co Banbury are please to present this excellent one bedroom house situated in a fantastic location within Banbury. This would make an ideal investment or the perfect first time home.

Asking Price Of £155,000



Kings Way

A spacious 4 bedroom semi detached home situated in the south of Banbury. The property comprises entrance hall, lounge, dining room, recently fitted kitchen diner and cloak room. Upstairs there are four generous bedrooms with ensuite bathroom to the master and separate family bathroom. Outside benefits from ample off road parking, garage, front and rear gardens.

£320,000



Cherwell Court

A spacious two bedroom apartment within walking distance to the town centre and train station. Master bedroom with ensuite shower room. Plenty of storage. Spacious kitchen and living area. Secure gated parking.

£185,000

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LETTINGS

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To Let

flat 4 Northumberland Court

Martin & Co are pleased to present a new to the market refurbished two bedroom apartment within walking distance to the town centre and train station. The property comprises: brand new kitchen; separate living room; new bathroom with bath and shower; two bedrooms (comprising a double and a single bedroom). There is also allocated parking.

£695 pcm

To Let

Hereford Way

A new to the market three bedroom spacious bungalow with good size garden; plenty of parking and a garage. Conveniently situated in Hardwick for access to the town centre; local schools and shops. EPC Rating D.

£950 pcm

To Let

7 Tarragon Walk

A spacious two bedroom apartment on the Hanwell Fields estate. This property benefits from two double bedrooms and allocated parking and a garage. Fully fitted kitchen and spacious lounge. Double bedrooms. Good access for M40 links. Walking distance to the shops and schools. EPC rating: C

£850 pcm

To Let

34 Marshall Road

Martin & Co are pleased to offer this spacious two bedroom apartment within walking distance to the town centre and train station. The property comprises of living room and kitchen. There are two double bedrooms and a bathroom. The master bedroom has an en-suite bathroom. There is also allocated parking.

£775 pcm

To Let

Wren Crescent

Martin & Co are pleased to present a new to the market immaculately presented spacious three bedroom property situated on the Longford Park estate. The property comprises entrance hall; kitchen with integrated appliances; cooker; washer dryer; dishwasher; fridge freezer. Good size living room; cloakroom with WC; upstairs there are two double bedrooms and one single.

£1250 pcm

To Let

2 Kings Road

Martin & Co are pleased to present this two bedroom cottage situated in the village of Bloxham. The property benefits from one double bedroom and a second smaller bedroom / office. The bathroom contains a WC and a shower. Good size kitchen and living room. Washing machine and fridge available. EPC rating C

£825 pcm

To Let

Quarry Close

A new to the market one bedroom house set in village of Bloxham. Ideal for a professional couple or single person. Good size living space, with spacious garden. The property benefits from allocated parking and is walking distance to the shops and local amenities.

£695 pcm

To Let

Broughton Road

Martin & Co are pleased to present a new to the market one bedroom room in a shared house conveniently situated within walking distance to the town centre and train station. The room benefits from a kitchenette area also. Ideal for a single professional.

£550 pcm

To Let

Sir Henry Jake Close

Martin & Co are delighted to offer this three bedroom semi detached house on Hanwell Fields with garage and garden. The property benefits from 2 reception rooms as well as larger than average bedrooms with fitted wardrobes.

£1000 pcm

To Let

Purston House

Martin & Co are pleased to present a new to the market first floor two bedroom unfurnished apartment situated conveniently for the town centre and train station. The property comprises: hallway; kitchen; living room; two double bedrooms; the master bedroom has an ensuite shower. EPC rating B

£795 pcm

To Let

Causeway

Martin and Co Banbury are pleased to offer this two bedroom mid terraced property, with close proximity to train station and town centre. The property comprises; kitchen, lounge, bathroom, two bedrooms. There is on road parking, and a small garden to the rear of the property. Suitable for single or professional couple.

£775 pcm

To Let

Cricketers Fields

Martin & Co are pleased to present a selection of new two bedroom luxury apartments situated within walking distance to the train station and town centre. Available unfurnished with off road parking. Don't miss out on the chance to rent in a brand new development. Available for viewings from 27th May.

£795 pcm

To Let

Springwell

A well presented two bedroom apartment in quiet location within walking distance to the town centre and train station.

£825 pcm

To Let

Enhance View

Martin & Co are pleased to present a new to the market one bedroom spacious apartment conveniently situated in the town centre and within walking distance to the train station. The property comprises kitchen; living room; one double bedroom; bathroom with bath and shower. The property is available unfurnished.

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8 PUBLIC NOTICES

Announcements - Public Notices

Department for Transport

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

The Secretary of State gives notice of an Order made under Section 247 of the above Act entitled "The Stopping up of Highway (South East) (No. 33) Order 2017" authorising the stopping up of an irregular shaped southern part width of Camp Road at Upper Heyford in the District of Cherwell to enable development as permitted by Cherwell District Council under references 10/01642/OUT and 16/01000/F.


Copies of the Order may be obtained, free of charge, from the Secretary of State, National Transport Casework Team, Tyneside House, Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle Business Park, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 7AR or nationalcasework@dtf.gsi.gov.uk (quoting NATTRAN/SE/S247/2752) and may be inspected during normal opening hours at Heyford Park Free School, 52 Camp Road, Upper Heyford, Oxfordshire OX25 5HD.

Any person aggrieved by or desiring to question the validity of or any provision within the Order, on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the above Act or that any requirement or regulation made has not been complied with, may, within 6 weeks of 01 June 2017 apply to the High Court for the suspension or quashing of the Order or of any provision included.

G Patrick, Casework Manager

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2008 08	SUZUKI JIMNY 1.3 J1X Plus. 3 Door, Dark Metallic Red. Local car. mileage, approximately 39000. Previous owner real car enthusiast, Exceptionally well looked after. Aircon, electric windows, electric mirrors, PAS. radio/CD, remote central locking etc. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. HPI clear.....	£4,295.00
2007 07	TOYOTA AYGO 1.0cc VVT-I SEMI AUTO. Silver. 5 Door, hatchback. AUTOMATIC. Local car. One family owner from new. Approximately ONLY 10,000 recorded miles from new. Only £20 for twelve months road tax. Lovely condition. Remote central locking. Radio/CD. Electric windows.PAS. Sold with a new MOT and a full service and cambelt. Hpi clear.....	£3,650.00
2008 58	FORD FIESTA 1.2 ZETEC. Silver. 3 Door. Local car. Lovely condition. PAS. Aircon. Electric windows and door mirrors. Radio/CD Etc. Sold with a new MOT and a full service. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. Hpi clear.....	£2,795.00
2006 56	FORD FIESTA 1.2 ZETEC. Silver. 3 Door. Local car. Lovely condition. PAS. Aircon. Recent new cambelt fitted by ourselves. Hpi Clear.....	£2,495.00
2005 54	ALFA ROMEO 156 JTS Veloce 2.0. Silver Metallic. Black leather interior. Very nice condition throughout. Local car. Alloys. Air con. PAS. Radio/CD. Remote central locking. Electric windows Etc. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt kit. HPI clear.....	£2,195.00
2004 54	FORD FOCUS 1.8. Metallic Blue. Previously sold by ourselves. PAS. Aircon. Radio/CD. Remote central locking. Electric Windows etc. Sold with a new MOT and a full service. HPI clear.....	£1,895.00
2005 05	PEUGEOT 307S. 1.6cc. 5 door. Blue. Local car. Lovely condition. PAS. Electric windows. Electric door mirrors. Radio/CD. Aircon. Alloys. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. Hpi Clear.....	£1,795.00
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